

1813

BENJAMIN BLYDENBURG WISNER

Benjamin Blydenburg Wisner, clergyman, was born in Orange county, N. Y., Sept. 29, 1794. He was graduated from Union College in 1813, and from the Princeton Theological Seminary in 1820, and was ordained pastor of the Old South Church, Boston, in 1821. In 1828 he was elected a member of the prudential committee of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and in 1832 one of its three corresponding secretaries. The degree of D. D. was conferred upon him by Union College in 1828. His publications include a "History of the Old South Church" (Boston, 1830). He died Feb. 9, 1835.

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CLASS OF 1813

BENJAMIN B. WISNER

SEE 19th Annual Report of Directors of the
American Education Society for 1835.
page 92.

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BENJAMIN B. WISNER, '13

b. Goshen, N. Y., Sept. 29, 1794; U. C., 1813; (2); ord. Cong., Feb., '21;
p. Old South ch., Boston, Mass., '21-32; sec. A. B. C. F. M., '32-35; d. Feb.
9, 1835. D. D., U. C., '28.

From: Princeton Theological Seminary Catalogue 1818-1819.

Wisner, Benjamin B.

1813

1. At the funeral of Benjamin B. Wisner, D.D. 1835
By Warren Fry, D.D. no
2. The Moral Condition & Prospects of the Heathen.
Published as Tract by the Board 1833. no
Given before Foreign Missionary Society of
Boston and Vicinity, 1824.

CLASS OF 1813--Benjamin B. Wisner.

infelicity in the manner of his education. But, as an extemporaneous debater, he would have commanded attention on the floor of either House of Congress. At the very outset of the discussion, he seemed to have an intuitive perception of the leading points, in their natural relations and order, and to be at once prepared for a logical, instructive, convincing argument. This always gave him influence in deliberative bodies, where his tact and ability seemed never to be at fault.

His mental powers came early to maturity; and comparing his labors and influence with those of other men, he needed not threescore years and ten to stand with the more favored men in the impression made upon his age. Yet his early death has ever seemed among the greater mysteries of God's holy providence.

FROM Memorial Volume of the First Fifty Years of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Fifth Edition. Pub. by the Board Boston 1862.

BENJAMIN BLYDENBURG WISNER

Was born September 29, 1794, in Goshen, Orange County, N. Y.; was graduated at Union College in 1813, where he performed the duties of tutor from 1815 to 1818; afterward went through a course of theological studies in the Seminary at Princeton; and was ordained pastor of the Old South Church in Boston, February 21, 1821. In 1832, he was elected one of the three Corresponding Secretaries of the American Board (of Commissioners for Foreign Missions), and continued in the charge of the duties of that office till his death, which occurred, after a brief illness, February 9, 1835, in the forty-first year of his age.

The author can not give a better delineation of Dr. Wisner, as he appeared to his associates in office, than the one, substantially, which he communicated to Dr. Sprague, in the year 1851, for his "Annals of the American Pulpit."

Dr. Wisner became one of the three Corresponding Secretaries of the Board in the autumn of 1832. His was the home department in the correspondence,--having special charge of the system of means for raising funds and procuring missionaries. This was before the General Assembly's Board for Foreign Missions was formed, and the entire broad field covered by the Congregational, Presbyterian, and Reformed Dutch Churches was open to him. In fact, the Presbyterian churches of the South were organized for action in aid of foreign missions in direct connection with his official agency. He had been four years a member of the Prudential Committee of the Board previous to his election as Secretary, and was thus enabled to enter at once on his duties with the advantage of a large stock of appropriate information.

Dr. Wisner had the rarest qualifications for a secretaryship in a great missionary institution. His spirit, naturally somewhat overbearing, had been softened by a partial failure of health and pastoral trials. Cheerful, social, rejoicing in the usefulness of his associates and of all about him, his fine conversational powers made him a most agreeable companion. His public spirit made him ready for every good work; and such was his love for work that he seemed never to grow weary in well-doing. He did everything promptly and thoroughly, and little things and great things equally well; not with eye service, or to have glory of men, but because he loved to be doing good, and because nature and grace made him happy in doing with his might what his hand found to do. So it was always and every where; and this made him the man for committees and sub-committees, on which he was generally to be found, when work was to be done trenching largely upon the hours usually appropriated to rest and sleep. He was a model of a business man--wakeful, cheerful, collected, judicious, laborious, devoted, disinterested. It was no mere official interest he had in his duties. The public welfare was his own. He felt a responsibility for the course of events. His heart was in the great cause of missions--in every part of it.

His forte was executive. But he had great power also in debate in deliberative bodies. As a writer, he did not readily adapt himself to the popular mind. There was a lack of fancy and imagination, of the discursive and illustrative power, and of flow in thought and style--defects that may have been owing to some

November 18, 1975
December 2, 1975

Alumni Records
Union College
Ross Woodbridge
22 Old Farm Circle
Pittsford, NY 14534

Benjamin Blydenburg Wisner was graduated from Union
College in 1813.
Dear Mr. Woodbridge:

Enclosed are copies of all materials currently kept in
our alumni files on Benjamin Blydenburg Wisner, Union
class of 1813.

As is the case with many of our graduates from this era,
the information is scant and taken from other histories.
In fact the reference sources listed may provide better
information for your needs.

Thank you very much. If I do not hear from you I will know
I hope this information proves helpful to you.

Sincerely,

William G. Kuchta
Assistant Director

Sincerely yours,

Ross Woodbridge

Ross Woodbridge
22 Old Farm Circle
Pittsford, New York 14534

November 18, 1975

Alumni Records
Union College
Schenectady, New York

Gentlemen:

Benjamin Blydenburg Wisner was graduated from Union College in 1813.

I believe he was then a tutor there from 1815 to 1818 and also received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Union College in 1828.

Would your records include information and any interesting facts on Dr. Wisner that I might have a copy of? I'll be happy to pay for same and Xerox copies would be fine.

Thank you very much. If I do not hear from you I will know you could not help me.

Sincerely yours,

Ross Woodbridge

Ross Woodbridge
22 Old Farm Circle
Pittsford, New York 14534

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